Harpswell Conservation Commission Minutes for Workshop Meeting, May 5, 2009, 3:00 PM, Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Don Jones, Burr Taylor, Ann Nemrow Anne Perry, Tony Barrett

Meeting called to order at 3:03 pm by M. Nahf. Minutes of April 21, 2009 approved. A. Perry motioned, B. Taylor seconded. Unanimous.

## **Sub Committes**

Vernal Pools: D. Jones cited some add'l. info received from Jerry Bley. M. Nahf advised that some stimulus money may be available from the USGS for the project. T. Barrett mentioned that he had sent a draft via email to concom members citing reasons and misperceptions for identifying vernal pools. Will be held in file for later use. A. Nemrow advised that only 10% of vernal pools are deemed significant.

Conservation Education: Reviewed notes from 4/29 subcommittee meeting. Need to solicit approval from selectmen. Good idea to communicate with professional landscapers in the area re maintenance of lawns and application of herbicides/pesticides. Need a brochure for new residents. What topics to cover with focus area residents. D. Strachan mentioned adding easements and land use tax incentives. How to present to them. Concensus seemed to be it should be done in small pieces rather than all at once. Next meeting to be scheduled.

Land Acquisition: Reviewed last weeks' sub-committee meeting with Marcel Polak. Three ways of accquisition and/or permanent conservation of land: purchase of land or easements, donations of land/easments and placement of conservation easements on Town owned land. Discussed criteria. Ease of project and high level of threat seem to be first focus. However, a long-term vision (25-50 years) is required. Talked about the land acq. ranking sheet of the HHLT. T. Barrett said we need to know how to be proactive rather than reactive. B. Taylor said to focus on wetlands and then wildlife habitat first. Smaller projects may be better to focus on, unfragmented blocks. Be more finite. Also the role of the Town and HHLT needs to be addressed. How to fund, vetting process for acquisition, easements, who holds them. Discussed sources for funding. Presently, no conservation fund only a land acquisition fund according to town treasurer. Need to review definition with the town administrator. D. Strachan to contact her.

Town Lands for Conservation: Agreed that the Cliff Trail property is the highest priority. Is there a way to have an easement and non-easement section? Old logging road may be a delineation point. Contour and elevation map may be helpful. Knowing the history of the land may also be beneficial. Are easements worthwhile on town landings? B. Taylor stated the priority should be which land to preserve.

M. Nahf mentioned that Bill Wells wanted to bring in a group to help with conservation land cleanup. Are there areas that need attention? Scheduled to occur in late June. M. Nahf to contact town lands and Mitchell Field committee.

## **Old Business:**

Hildreth Rd., 4/29 on-site visit. No vernal pools detected by Concom members that traversed the site. There is a significant wetland in the rear of the property. Otherwise most of the lot appears to be uplands with some wet areas. D. Jones stated that he believes this is already in the RP zone. D. Strachan confirmed that on Town wetlands map wetlands 9 and 10 are in the RP zone. As such would be protected by 250ft. setback requirement. This is part of Otter Brook Corridor. A. Nemrow to write up description of what activities take place on the property at this time. D. Strachan will contact HHLT re the connectivity issue in the area. M. Nahf to write a new draft rec. for review at next meeting.

OSIC: The selectmen want the open space implementation committee (OSIC) to be a sub-committee of the conservation committee. M. Nahf to add to Concom mission statement.

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 D. Jones, sec'y.